



The President's Daily Brief

22 April 1972

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

We report the latest military developments in South Vietnam on *Page 1*.

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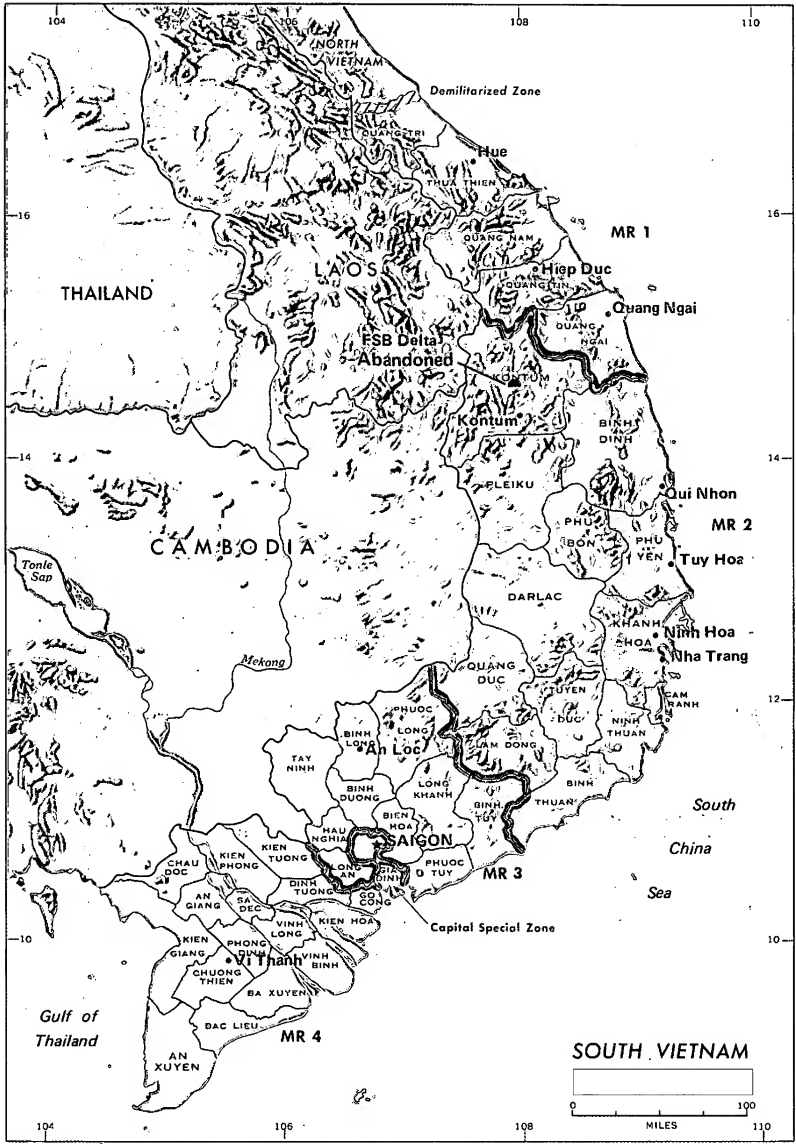
In a Lenin birthday address yesterday a Soviet Politburo member was distinctly cool on Soviet-US relations. (*Page 3*)

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SOUTH VIETNAM

North of Saigon, An Loc remains under siege, and the heavy enemy shellings have become increasingly accurate. Allied air support has been severely hampered by poor weather and has not yet silenced Communist artillery positions. South Vietnamese resupply efforts have also been largely unsuccessful, and evacuation of wounded South Vietnamese troops remains a serious problem. The Communists currently control approximately 20 percent of An Loc.

In the northern portion of the country, the situation at the district town of Hiep Duc in Quang Tin Province remains critical, with the town's defenders withdrawn into the headquarters compound. The provincial capital of Quang Ngai was shelled early yesterday, and the Communists are trying to isolate the city by knocking out bridges along Route 1 south of town and by disrupting traffic to the north.

In MR-2, a tank-led attack forced the South Vietnamese to abandon a fire support base on Rocket Ridge in Kontum Province. There has been considerable movement of Communist units near Kontum city to the southeast, and an attack on the city remains a distinct possibility. Enemy movements near the coast suggest that ground attacks may be planned against the cities of Tuy Hoa, Ninh Hoa, Nha Trang, and Cam Ranh.

Communist mortar attacks and ground probes continue throughout the delta provinces.
Communist regiments remain near the Chuong Thien

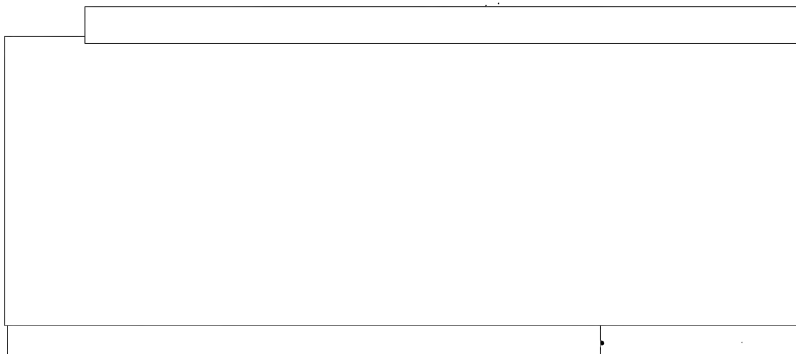
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NORTH VIETNAM

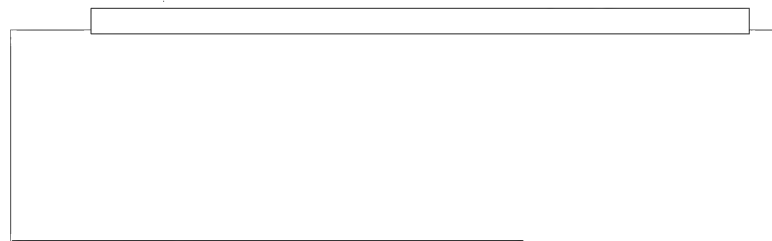


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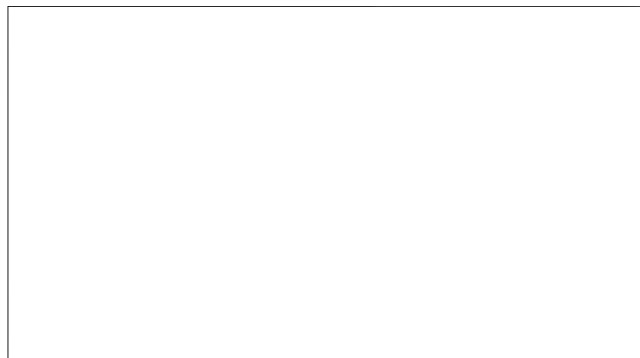


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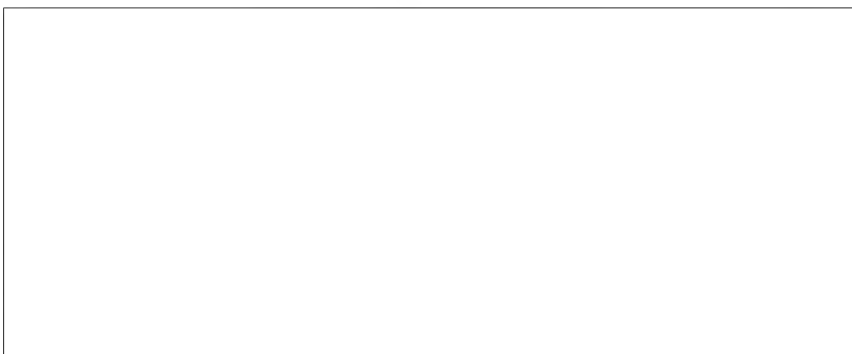
USSR

In an address celebrating the anniversary of Lenin's birth yesterday, Soviet politburo member Kulakov promised that the USSR "had been and would be on the side of Vietnam, of all the patriots of Indochina." Speaking in the presence of the Soviet triumvirate, Kulakov did not link Vietnam and Soviet-US relations, but judging from the TASS summary his remarks on bilateral Soviet-US relations were pointedly cool. Kulakov mentioned none of the positive aspects of Soviet-US bilateral ties which party leader Brezhnev had noted in his speech of 20 March.

The contents of the annual Lenin Day speech reflect the collective views of the leadership. Although a slightly more militant line than usual could be expected on this ideological occasion, Kulakov's remarks suggest that the Soviets see a need to be publicly less conciliatory toward the US.

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CHINA



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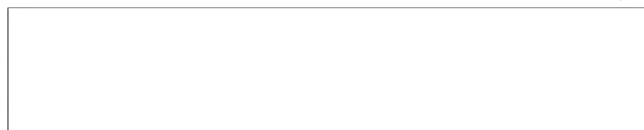
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NOTE

Cyprus: President Makarios has agreed to strict UN control of the Czechoslovak arms imported last January, under conditions far tighter than he had accepted last month. Makarios apparently wants the arms issue resolved, even at the cost of accepting terms he considers less than satisfactory, in order to defuse Turkish charges that he is responsible for delaying the resumption of intercommunal talks. Resolving the arms issue also strengthens his hand against Athens' demands that he reshuffle his government and accept Greek direction on Cypriot affairs.

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